

Testimony of Walter L. Glomb, Jr.
about
S.B. No. 4, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs
to the Housing Committee
of the Connecticut General Assembly
February 28, 2023

My name is Walter Glomb; I live in Vernon, Connecticut; I am a parent of an adult who lives with developmental disabilities in Connecticut; and I serve as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities, a state agency.

Approximately 46,000 adults live with developmental disabilities in Connecticut, and they all need a place to live. About 36,000 of these individuals are unemployed and receiving only Social Security and other limited cash benefits or have earnings below the poverty level.

Only about 6,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in Connecticut receive a direct housing benefit and no more than about 12,000 receive assistance in finding housing. At least 18,000 of those who must find their own affordable housing do not receive any assistance in doing so.

The Council appreciates the protections for renters, the creation of workforce housing opportunity development projects, and increased housing opportunities for persons experiencing homelessness, veterans, apprentices, and newly hired employees in S.B. No. 4.

More is needed for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The statutes could require local infrastructure and zoning regulations –

- to take meaningful actions that replace segregated living patterns with integrated and balanced living patterns, address significant disparities in housing needs and access to opportunities, and foster inclusive communities;
- to promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing through the express allowance of housing that could feasibly be occupied by both low and moderate income households;
- to expressly allow the development of housing which will meet the housing needs identified in the state's consolidated plan for housing and community development;
- to provide for the development of affordable housing opportunities, including, but not limited to, multifamily dwellings, accessory apartments, residential buildings containing at least four dwelling units, mixed-use buildings that allow dwelling units, cluster development, and middle housing, which includes duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, cottage clusters and townhouses;
- to require members of a zoning, planning or planning and zoning commission, or zoning board of appeals to receive training related to affordable and fair housing policies.

Thank you.